

Safety Topic of the Month: Chemical Inventory

Richmond Refinery May 2007





Why Are We Reviewing This Topic?

We conduct chemical inventory because it is driven by environmental, health and safety laws. Ensuring that MSDS's are also available for chemicals in the inventory is not only the law, it's the right thing to do!

Here's what we would like to familiarize you with:

Why the chemical inventory needs to list exact product and manufacturer names.

Why chemical inventory verification is completed annually.

Why "approval" is necessary before bringing new chemicals into a location.

How MSDS's play a role in chemical inventory.

The projects underway to manage MSDS's.

How users can access the MSDS's needed to perform incident free work.





Why Do Chemical Inventory?

Why does the refinery maintain a complete inventory of all chemicals?

Here are the reasons why it is done:

- It is required by California regulations for hazardous materials management.
- To provide the mandatory 30-day written notification, to Contra Costa County and Richmond Fire Department, of any significant changes to our inventory.
- We are required to submit an annual Hazardous Materials Business Plan to Contra Costa County in February. A complete and updated inventory of refinery chemicals is part of that submission.
- To prepare for quarterly chemical inventory compliance audits required by Contra Costa County and done by the City of Richmond Fire Department.
- To Make sure we have MSDS's for all of the chemicals used by employees and contractors.

New Chemicals



The use of all new chemicals in the refinery must go through an approval process before they are used (RI-313, Section 7.0). When used in conjunction with the MOC system, the approval process assists with the following:

- Health and safety review of the chemicals for which approval is being sought, to ensure that its use will not cause injury or illness to employees.
- ✓ Ensure that an MSDS of the new chemical becomes part of our inventory of MSDS's and that it contains adequate health and safety data.
- Reviews the impact of a chemical's use to the refinery's effluent systems.
- Assures refinery compliance with environmental, as well as, health and safety regulations.
- Ensures that quantities of the new chemicals are updated in the Corporation's Chemical Inventory Database and that chemical inventory changes are communicated with Contra Costa County governmental agencies.
- Ensure that employees who are required to use the new chemical understand the hazards associated with the chemical, and know how to protect themselves from its hazards.





Conduct periodic "in-house" audits to check your inventory management success (RI-313, Appendix IV).

Make sure that all new chemicals, whether newly used in the refinery or just your area, are added to that location's inventory (RI-313, Section 7.0).

If a chemical is no longer used, or a different chemical has been substituted, the inventory must be adjusted

Assign one primary contact at each work group or ABU to handle the chemical inventory verification.

Fill out all chemical inventory forms completely and be sure to list exact product and manufacturer names. This will avoid rework for yourself and questions from the refinery's chemical inventory coordinator.

If you are not sure how to conduct a chemical inventory, ask Safety for training on "how" to conduct a proper chemical inventory (RI-313, Appendix IV).

Complete the chemical inventory verification by the date requested. Once complete, the inventory data must be reviewed and entered into the Corporate database and reports prepared.

You can view your chemical inventory online at **Inventory Reports**



Communicating Chemical Hazards

You've learned that we do all of this chemical inventory and approval stuff to comply with legal requirements.

Tracking chemical volumes is important. However, the chemical inventory process is also important in supporting the tracking and collection of Material Safety Data Sheets.

Because chemicals are prevalent in our business, they're going to be around you. As you already know, MSDS's are the documents that communicate the potentially harmful effects of those chemicals.

Knowing how to protect yourself from those hazards is critical to your health and safety.





You Got an MSDS for That?

An important part of the chemical inventory verification process is determining if an MSDS is available for each chemical.

Why?

Because we're required by the Hazard's Communication law to provide MSDS's for employees and contractors who work with or around chemicals.

Richmond Refinery needs over 3000 MSDS's for both Chevron and vendor chemicals.

Sometimes chemicals are brought into the refinery without prior approval and that often results in MSDS's not being available to employees.

It is the vendor MSDS's that are most often missing or out of date.





On-Line RI-313 Reviews

The Safety Section is currently working on developing on-line RI-313 review

Database similar to the MOC review process

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